

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An endoscope apparatus comprising:

a flexible slender insertion section inserted into  
a to-be-inspected space, the insertion section having a  
5 slender flexible tube portion, a distal portion coupled  
to a distal end of the flexible tube portion, a  
bendable portion coupled to the distal portion and to  
be bent, and a proximal portion coupled to a proximal  
end of the flexible tube portion; and

10 an operation section coupled to a proximal end of  
the insertion section, the operation section having a  
grip portion gripped by an operator, and a bending  
operation portion which bends the bendable portion,  
wherein:

15 the insertion section has a treatment instrument  
channel, the distal portion of the insertion section  
having a distal open end of the treatment instrument  
channel, and the proximal portion of the insertion  
section having a proximal open end of the treatment  
20 instrument channel; and

the proximal open end of the treatment instrument  
channel is located on the grip portion.

2. The endoscope apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein the grip portion has a display portion which  
25 displays an observation image.

3. The endoscope apparatus according to claim 2,  
wherein the display portion includes a display panel

and a frame supporting the display panel, and the proximal open end of the treatment instrument channel is provided on the frame.

4. The endoscope apparatus according to claim 1,  
5 wherein the proximal open end of the treatment instrument channel is located on a rear surface of the grip portion.

5. The endoscope apparatus according to claim 1,  
10 wherein the grip portion has a grip which can be gripped by one hand of the operator.

6. The endoscope apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein the grip portion has an upper portion provided with a display portion which displays an observation image, the proximal open end of the treatment  
15 instrument channel is located below the display portion.

7. The endoscope apparatus according to claim 5,  
wherein the grip portion has a casing and a forceps-port constructing member, the forceps-port constructing  
20 member being coupled to the proximal open end.

8. The endoscope apparatus according to claim 7,  
wherein the forceps-port constructing member is located at a position at which the forceps-port constructing member does not interfere with an operation of the  
25 bending operation portion.

9. The endoscope apparatus according to claim 7,  
wherein the forceps-port constructing member is located

near the display portion and the bending operation portion.

10. The endoscope apparatus according to claim 3,  
wherein the frame of the display portion has a side  
5 provided with a forceps port.

11. The endoscope apparatus according to claim 7,  
wherein the grip portion has a downwardly opening  
forceps port formed in a lower end of the casing.

12. The endoscope apparatus according to claim 11,  
10 wherein the grip portion is detachable from the display  
portion.

13. The endoscope apparatus according to claim 1,  
further comprising a universal cord section and a case  
which can house the insertion section, the universal  
15 cord section and the operation section in a wound  
state.